

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - 17/06/21

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE 17th June, 2021

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Castledine-Dack, Collingham, Cooksey, Griffin, Hughes, Sylvester, along with Mr. D. Bates and Mr. R. Swann (Parish Council Representatives) and also Mrs. A. Bingham, Mr. P. Edler, Mrs. M. Evers and Mrs. K. Penney (Independent Members).

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chair was Mr. P. Beavers, Independent Person.

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Mr. D. Rowley and Mr. D. Roper-Newman, Independent Person.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute No. 115 (Consideration of Complaints) and 116 (Whistleblowing Concerns) as the reports had confidential appendices on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 21st January, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. UPDATE AS TO RECEIPT OF REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS

Consideration was given to an update by the Deputy Monitoring Officer relating to the satisfactory completion of the Register of Interest Forms by Elected Members following the election. A number of discrepancies were highlighted which were being referred to the relevant Members and for these to be rectified before being published on the Council's website.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, would like Members to be reminded on a monthly basis of the need to maintain their Register of Interest and ensure that it was completed correctly and kept up-to-date.

Resolved:- (1) That the update be received and the detail noted.

(2) That steps be taken to remind Elected Members on a monthly basis to maintain their Register of Interest and ensure it was kept up-to-date.

5. CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

6. MATTERS OF CONCERN RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

It was also suggested that in order for the Committee to be satisfied investigations had not stalled, that dates of action taken be included.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee be held on Thursday, 16th September, 2021, at Rotherham Town Hall commencing at 2.00 p.m.